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Noriyuki Shiba et al.

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600 Third Avenue New York, NY 10016 December 16, 1999

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

CLAIM OF PRIORITY

Sir:

With respect to the above-identified application, Applicants claim the priority of Japanese Patent Application No. 10/362567 filed December 21, 1998, the priority of which is hereby claimed, as provided by 35 USC 119. A certified copy of the priority document will follow in due course.

Respectfully submitted,

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